

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Microswitch (1)~~ A microswitch comprising:
 - a deformable membrane (12)-attached to a substrate (3),
 - actuating means (4)-designed to deform the membrane (12), from a first stable position of the microswitch (1), in such a way as to establish an electric contact between at least a first conducting pad (5)-formed on the substrate (3)-and at least a second conducting pad (6)-formed on a bottom surface of the membrane (12), in a second stable position,
 - and electrostatic holding means designed to hold the microswitch (1)-in the second stable position and comprising complementary electrostatic holding means (15,9) respectively fixedly secured to the membrane (12)-and to the substrate (3),microswitch characterized in that the membrane (12)-comprises at least:
 - two substantially parallel flexure arms (13)-attached to the substrate (3)-via at least one of the ends thereof and comprising the actuating means (4),
 - and at least one contact arm (14), substantially parallel to the flexure arms (13), arranged between the flexure arms (13)-and attached to the flexure arms (13)-in the high deformation areas (20)-of the flexure arms (13), the contact arm (14)-moving in a direction substantially parallel to the substrate (3)-on actuation of the microswitch (1), and comprising the electrostatic holding means (15)-of the membrane (12)-and the second conducting pad (6).
2. (Currently Amended) Microswitch according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the contact arm (14)-supporting the electrostatic holding means (15)-is elongate.
3. (Currently Amended) Microswitch according to ~~one of the claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the two ends of the flexure arms (13)-are fixedly

secured to the substrate ~~(3)~~, the contact arm ~~(14)~~ being attached, via the central part thereof, to the flexure arms ~~(13)~~ at the level of their respective central parts.

4. (Currently Amended) Microswitch according to ~~one of the claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each flexure arm ~~(13)~~ comprises a first end fixedly secured to the substrate ~~(3)~~ and a second end fixedly secured to the contact arm ~~(14)~~, the second ends of two adjacent flexure arms ~~(13)~~ being respectively fixedly secured to opposite ends of the corresponding contact arm ~~(14)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Microswitch according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the actuating means ~~(4)~~ of the microswitch ~~(1)~~ comprise a thermal actuator ~~(7)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Microswitch according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the thermal actuator ~~(7)~~ comprises a heating resistor ~~(8)~~ inserted in at least one end of the flexure arms ~~(13)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Microswitch according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the actuating means ~~(4)~~ of the microswitch ~~(1)~~ comprise a piezoelectric actuator.

8. (Currently Amended) Microswitch according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flexure arms ~~(13)~~ are bimetal strips.

9. (Currently Amended) Microswitch according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the electrostatic holding means of the membrane ~~(12)~~ comprise at least one electrode ~~(15)~~.